

Message Text

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ACTION AID-59

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FM AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9697
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME

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AFDROUGHT

AIDAC

E.O. 11652: N/A
SUBJECT: GOC RESPONSE TO USG BARDAI AIRLIFT AND INSPECTION
PROPOSALS

REF: N'DJAMENA 1442

1. IN COURSE OF AMBASSADOR'S INITIAL FORMAL CALL ON MINISTER
FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND COOPERATION KAMOGOU (SEPTEL), MINISTER
RAISED QUESTION OF SOLUTION OF PROBLEM OF AIRLIFTING STOCKS FROM
FAYA LARGEAU TO BARDAI. MINISTER EXPRESSED GRATITUDE FOR
US OFFER, BUT STATED US PROPOSAL UTILIZE DC-4 DISCUSSED WITH
SUPREME MILITARY COUNCIL (SMC) WHICH NOT ENTHUSIASTIC, AS IT
CONSIDERED CHADIAN DC-4S AND DC-3S TOOSMALL AND INEFFICIENT
FOR JOB. AMBASSADOR AND DCM EXPLAINED THAT EMB IN CONSUL-
TATION WITH WASHINGTON HAD GIVEN MATTER CAREFUL THOUGHT, WITH
PARTICULAR REGARD TO URGENCY OF QUESTION, AND HAD CONCLUDED
THAT MOST RAPID MEANS GET FOOD TO BARDAI WAS TO USE AIRCRAFT
ALREADY IN CHAD. USING BASIC FIGURES AVAILABLE TO EMBASSY
AND DAO, WE CONCLUDED THAT IT SEEMED LIKELY THAT CHADIAN
DC-4 COULD TRANSPORT ABOUT 4.5 TONS PER TRIP. US THOUGHT
THAT FINANCING FUEL MIGHT BE PROBLEM, HOWEVER, AND THERE-
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FORE WAS PREPARED INITIALLY OFFER \$15,000 TOWARDS FUEL COSTS

IF THIS NEEDED. OBVIOUSLY WITH PRIOR INSPECTION REQUESTS IN MIND, MINISTER ASKED WHAT CONDITIONS TIED TO \$15,000 AND WHEN IT MIGHT BE AVAILABLE. AMBASSADOR STATED THAT THERE NO CONDITIONS ATTACHED TO OFFER TO PURCHASE FUEL, AND THAT HE AUTHORIZED MAKE FUNDS AVAILABLE AS SOON AS NEEDED. AMBASSADOR NOTED THAT THIS OFFER WAS USG INITIAL RESPONSE FOR CONSIDERATION GOC IN VIEW URGENCY OF PROBLEM, AND SHOULD ADDITIONAL MEASURES BE REQUIRED USG WOULD BE GLAD TO CONSIDER THEM. HE CONCLUDED THAT THERE WAS SINCERE DISPOSITION IN WASHINGTON TO HELP AND THAT WE WERE SEEKING THE BEST WAY TO DO SO. (COMMENT: DAO ESTIMATES, VERY ROUGHLY, THAT TOTAL FUEL COSTS FOR 56 TONS MIGHT REACH \$32,000.)

MINISTER STATED THAT HE AWARE THAT ACTING FORNMIN. ROASNGAR HAD DISCUSSED QUESTION WITH FAO REP (REFTEL) AND UNDERSTOOD THAT SOME FUNDS MIGHT BE AVAILABLE FROM THAT SOURCE. AMBASSADOR REPLIED THAT USG WELCOMED COOPERATION WITH OTHER DONORS. MINISTER STATED THAT HE WOULD HAVE APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES RESTUDY PROPOSAL IMMEDIATELY, AND WOULD BE BACK IN TOUCH WITH EMB PROMPTLY¹

2. DISCUSSION INSPECTION VISITS INTERTWINED WITH ABOVE, WITH MINISTER CAREFULLY AND TACTFULLY, BUT FIRMLY, STRESSING THAT FACT THAT CHAD, HOWEVER POOR, IS SOVEREIGN COUNTRY, AND THAT FOR RELATIONS TO PROGRESS BETWEEN CHAD AND DEVELOPED COUNTRIES MUTUAL CONFIDENCE WAS REQUIRED. HE LATER REITERATED HIS POINT, MORE SPECIFICALLY, STATING THAT WHAT WAS INVOLVED WAS THE CONFIDENCE OF OTHERS IN THE NEW REGIME. IN ESSENCE, HE APPEARED TO BE SAYING, POLITELY, THAT GOC WOULD NOT ACCEPT INSPECTION AS PRIOR CONDITION TRANSPORTATION ASSISTANCE. AMBASSADOR NOTED THAT USG READY HELP IMMEDIATELY PEOPLE IN NEED, BUT THAT IT HIS OBLIGATION TO HIS GOVERNMENT AND PARTICULARLY TO US CONGRESS TO INSURE THAT FUNDS FOR HUMANITARIAN PURPOSES WELL SPENT. MFA SECGEN NANASBAYE, WHO JOINED CONVERSATION AT MID-POINT, HERE INTERJECTED BRIEF DESCRIPTION ROLE US OF US CONGRESS, QUITE FULLY EMPHASIZING ACCOUNTING PROCEDURES WHICH INSISTED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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UPON BY CONGRESS. MINISTER THEN SOFTENED STAND SOMEWHAT, PARTICULARLY AFTER ASCERTAINING THAT INSPECTION NOT PREREQUISITE FOR \$15,000, REFERRED TO FAO INSPECTION SUGGESTIONS, AND SAID HE WOULD HAVE PROPER OFFICIAL IN MINISTRY LAND MANAGEMENT AND TERRITORY REVIEW QUESTION.

3. COMMENT: NOT SURE OUR DC-4 PROPOSAL IS GOING

TO FLY. FRENCH CHARGE STATES FRENCH HAVE NOT YET
DECIDED UPON RESPONSE, BUT PRESUME HE AWAITING RETURN
FROM PARIS CONSULTATIONS HIS AMBASSADOR TO WHOM HE
HAD REFERRED QUESTION. NO TRANSALLS BASED CHAD, BUT
FRENCH MILITARY TRANSALLS SERVICE BASE N'DJAMENA
FROM FRANCE PERIODICALLY. WILL ATTEMPT DETERMINE
CURRENT STATUS SOVIET THINKING ASAP. ALTERNATE
POSSIBILITY MIGHT BE US CHARTER OF AIRCRAFT
OTHER AREAS AFRICA OR FROM EUROPE. FROM PAST
AIRLIFTS, WASHINGTON HAS GOOD INFORMATION ON AIRFIELDS
AT FAYA LARGEAU AND BARDAI, AND WOULD SEEM IN BETTER
POSITION THAN EMB/CDO TO DETERMINE WHERE CLOSEST
SUITABLE AIRCRAFT AVAILABLE FOR CHARTER ARE BASED.
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